

September 29, 2014

eBay

To:

We are writing to ask you to end your affiliation with the American Legislative Exchange Council, also known as ALEC.

Over the last few weeks, Microsoft, Google, Facebook and Yahoo! have ended their ALEC membership because of their concerns about the harmful role ALEC has played in our democratic process. This includes concerns with ALEC's policy stands, its secretive practices, and its effort to treat what most people consider a lobbying operation as "charitable" activity. This last concern has generated at least three separate complaints to the Internal Revenue Service that contributions to ALEC should not in fact be treated as tax deductible.

The public knows that the ALEC operation—which brings state legislators and corporate lobbyists behind closed doors to discuss proposed legislation and share lavish dinners—threatens our democracy. The public is asking eBay to stop participating in this scheme.

In August, Microsoft Corporation ended its affiliation with ALEC. Google followed shortly after, with Google Chairman Eric Schmidt stating on The Diane Rehm Show regarding ALEC's views on climate change, "We should not be aligned with such people – they're just, they're just literally lying." Just days later, Facebook announced that the corporation would likely end their affiliation with ALEC, and Yelp announced it had ended its ALEC membership months ago. The recent exodus of technology corporations was in part due to concerns over ALEC's extreme views; that extreme agenda includes denying the science of climate change, defunding public services, curtailing workers' rights and opposing net neutrality.

During their recent meetings in Dallas, ALEC officers and corporate lobbyists held training seminars to teach legislators how to block legislation that encourages clean energy solutions. Just last month, ALEC wrote a letter to the Federal Communications Commission in support of the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger in which they signal their opposition to net neutrality.

The undersigned organizations have varying opinions on these issues, but we all know that eBay has been a leader in the fight to protect net neutrality and investing in clean energy alternatives. Yet eBay has not heeded requests to reevaluate your membership in ALEC, despite the fact that ALEC's agenda is severely out of step with your corporate culture.

We, the undersigned organizations, believe that in the spirit of your organization's priorities and in the spirit of what is best for the American public: it is time for eBay to end its membership in ALEC.

Sincerely,